

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /052 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3587
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS GENEVA 13030

PARIS FOR NESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJECT: ILO: GENEVA GROUP MEETING WITH ILO DIRECTOR
GENERAL BLANCHARD

1. FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE ILO, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AT THE INSTRUCTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY REDUCED THE 1978/79 BUDGET BY 21.7 PERCENT, LARGELY COMPENSATING FOR THE LOSS OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION, WHICH HAD AMOUNTED TO 25 PERCENT OF THE ILO BUDGET. THE GAP WAS TAKEN CARE OF BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER STATES OF OVER US\$ 6 MILLION. AS THE 1980/81 BUDGET PREPARATION CYCLE APPROACHED SOME GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS BECAME CONCERNED THAT THE NEXT BUDGET MIGHT BE PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF A 21.7 PERCENT REDUCTION RATHER THAN A FULL 25 PERCENT REDUCTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENEVA GROUP.

2. UNITED KINGDOM AMBASSADOR SIR JAMES MURRAY, ON BEHALF OF MOST MEMBERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP, MET WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD ON AUGUST 17 TO REVIEW THE 1980/81 BUDGET. HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, SWITZERLAND AS WELL AS THE UK. (TOGETHER THEY CONTRIBUTE 53 PERCENT OF THE ILO BUDGET.) BLANCHARD AFFIRMED THAT THE 1980/81 BUDGET IS BEING PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF 75 PERCENT OF

THE ORIGINAL 1978/79 BUDGET AND THAT HE WOULD MAKE NO MORE APPEALS FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. NOTING THAT THE BUDGET WOULD BE A TIGHT ONE, BLANCHARD STATED THAT THE ILO STAFF HAD VOLUNTARILY AGREED TO A 2.2 PERCENT SALARY CUT FOR SIX MONTHS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MONEY TO PAY THE SALARIES OF FORTY EMPLOYEES WHO OTHERWISE WOULD BE DISMISSED.

4. MURRAY'S MEMO ON HIS MEETING WITH BLANCHARD HAS BEEN POUCHED TO JOHN REINERTSON, IO/LAB. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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